

In the Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (New) A method of forming vehicle components, said method comprising:
providing at least one of a brake disc and a clutch plate;
integrally forming a friction member on each of the at least one of a brake disc and a clutch plate, the friction member being formed of a PMMC material including an Al-alloy matrix material and ceramic reinforcing particles embedded in the matrix material; and
forming a transfer layer on a friction surface of the friction member formed on each of the at least one of a brake disc and a clutch plate, said forming of the transfer layer including removing the top surface layer of the matrix material so as to expose a surface of the ceramic reinforcing particles to thereby increase a friction coefficient of the friction surface of the friction member.
10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said removing of the top surface layer of the matrix material comprises chemical etching of the PMMC material.
11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said chemical etching comprises applying NaOH in a concentration in a range of 5% to 30% by weight as the etching agent.
12. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said chemical etching comprises applying an acid reagent as the etching agent.
13. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said chemical etching comprises applying KOH as the etching agent.
14. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said removing of the top surface layer of the matrix material comprises electrochemical pickling of the PMMC material.

15. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said forming of a friction member on each of the at least one of a brake disc and a clutch plate comprises forming a friction member of PMMC material including embedded SiC reinforcing particles in an amount in a range of 10% to 30% by volume.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein each of the reinforcing particles has a size in a range of 5μ to 30μ .

17. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said removing of the top surface layer of the matrix material comprises chemical etching by applying an NaOH solution for a period of time in a range of 1 minute to 3 minutes.

18. (New) A vehicle component comprising:
at least one of a brake disc and a clutch plate; and
a friction member integrally formed on each of said at least one of a brake disc and a clutch plate, said friction member including a body of PMMC material including an Al-alloy matrix material and ceramic reinforcing particles embedded in said matrix material, said friction member having a friction surface with a transfer layer, said transfer layer including exposed ceramic reinforcing particles protruding from said matrix material.

19. (New) The vehicle component of claim 18, wherein said PMMC material includes an AlSi alloy matrix material and reinforcing SiC particles embedded in said matrix material.

20. (New) The vehicle component of claim 18, wherein said friction member of PMMC material includes embedded SiC reinforcing particles in an amount in a range of 10% to 30% by volume.

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21. (New) The vehicle component of claim 20, wherein each of said reinforcing particles has a size in a range of 5μ to 30μ .
